

OBEY GOD NOT MEN
LIVING AUTHENTIC AND OBEDIENT

I. The Growing Church (4:29-36)

A. Praying: (4:29-30)

B. Powerful:

1. Filled with the Holy Spirit: (4:31) *"and when they prayed, the place where they had gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit..."*
2. Becoming Bold *"... and began to speak the word of God with boldness."*

C. Purposeful

1. One in heart and soul (vs 4:32a)
2. One in possessions (vs 4:32b-35)

JESUS' CHURCH IS A GROWING CHURCH FUELED BY PRAYER,
FILLED WITH POWER, AND SENT WITH PURPOSE

D. Modeled by Barnabas (4:36-37)

1. Known by the group, given a nickname (Son of Encouragement)
2. Set an example of giving ALL he had out of love for God and the church.
3. Authentic and pure in his motives

II. The Pretenders (vs 5:1-11)

A. BUT... *Ananias and Sapphira looked like Barnabas, but their heart's motives were totally different (vs1-2)*

1. Sold Land but held back profit
2. Desired Man's prominence, prestige, and position
3. Feared looking bad to man more than they feared God
4. They tried to have a foot in the christian world, and a foot in the secular world.

B. Peters Rebuke (vs3-10)

- Ananias

- a. Satan filled his heart
- b. Lied to the Holy Spirit
- c. Satan attempting to infiltrate the church from the inside
- d. Falls to the ground dead

- Sapphira

- a. Agreed with Ananias to deceive
- b. Lied as well
- c. Fell to the ground dead

C. God's Protection (vs11)

1. God knew that lies, deceit, and power/position mongering would cripple His young church
2. God's judgement is fast and teaches the church equally as fast.
"and great fear came over the whole church and over all who heard of these things"
3. God hates sin and has and will continue to protect his bride (the church)

III. Go Stand and Speak (vs12–21)

A. The Disciples at work

1. Signs and Wonders taking place (vs12)
2. More being added (13-14)
3. Healing in the shadow (vs15-16)

B. The Disciples Arrested (vs 17-21)

1. A Jealous High Priest (vs 17)
 - Religious sect desired power and authority
2. Jail time (v18)
 - laid hands on apostles
3. Unexpected release (v19-21)
 - a. angel came to open the doors (v19)
 - b. Go, Stand and speak to the people (V20)
 - c. They went
 - they had just been told to do what they had JUST BEEN arrested for!
 - they didn't contemplate, or rationalize a reason why not to do it
 - didn't care of the danger or repercussions to themselves

C. The Disciples can't be found (vs21-26)

1. Large crowd of important people gathered to see high priest rebuke disciples (vs21a)
2. High priest called for disciples but they were not in jail! (vs21b-22)
2. They were perplexed (23-24)
3. Found them in the temple teaching!
 - a. sent the guard but were gentle (this time) in fear the people would stone them

IV. We Must Obey God Rather Than Men (vs 27-30)

A. Priestly Complaint

1. Priest reminds them again that he said NOT to preach (vs28)
2. The Priest and Sadducies were OFFENDED! The apostles were preaching the truth about who Jesus was and who had killed him... which made the religious leaders at the time look really bad!

B. Apostles Answer

1. We must obey God rather than men (vs29)
 - Peter didn't worry about mans view of himself, or if what he was saying was offensive to the religious and moral.
2. Preaches TO the priest
 - lays out who Jesus is even though those he was talking to killed Him!

3 Questions

1. Ananias and Sapphira wanted a counterfeit version of church. A version where they could only have 1 foot in the church camp and one foot in the world. It didn't work. Where are you trying to live in two worlds and what would it take to be "all in" with God?
2. The Apostles are told to Go Stand and Speak and so they did. What might God be calling you to do that requires sacrifice, could damage your "reputation" or even just seems scary?
3. Why we obey is fueled by who we fear. Do you have a healthy fear of God or an unhealthy fear of man?